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Diocesan Church Society.

OCCASIONAL PAPER.

No. 6.

VACANT MISSIONS ABOUT TO BE SUPPLIED.

MAY, 1884.

It is well known to the members of the Diocesan Church Society that the Missions of Aberdeen, Albert, Canterbury, Johnston, Madawaska, and Weldford have, for a greater or less length of time, been vacant. By an extra effort made last year, and chiefly by means of special meetings held in various parts of the Diocese by His Lordship the Bishop Coadjutor, funds were raised which enabled the General Committee to re-instate these Missions on the Missionary Schedule for 1883-4. The next difficulty was to procure clergymen to take charge of them. In the absence of any supply, or prospect of supply, within the Diocese, recourse was had to England; one Mission, Albert, has now been filled; and it is hoped that during the next few months most if not all of these Missions will be supplied. But they are all, at present, feeble Missions; they need much assistance; in the aggregate, a sum of not less than \$2,600. The effort, therefore, of last year, must not only be repeated, but, if possible, increased. *The whole number of Missions requiring aid from the Society cannot be maintained unless the voluntary subscriptions to the Society amount to \$8,500 annually.* Last year, with all that was done to increase them, these were only \$7,200.

It is thought that a short account of the condition and wants of

the Missions above mentioned may well furnish the subject of an Occasional Paper; and so stimulate interest in, and incite larger contributions towards the Mission-work of the Church in New Brunswick. The following papers have, at the request of the Committee, been very kindly prepared and contributed by several of the clergy of the Diocese, who are, respectively, well acquainted with the Missions described.

I. ABERDEEN.

(a.) BY THE REV. ARTHUR HOADLEY.

The Mission of Aberdeen was set off from that of Andover and established as a separate mission at the annual meeting of the D. C. S., held in July, 1879.

During the latter part of July of the above year a Deacon was placed in charge of the Mission.

Services were held regularly at the seven stations from July to the following May, when, owing to ill-health, the Deacon-in-charge was compelled to give up the work.

In speaking to those interested in this Mission one has discovered that very little is really known about the geographical position thereof.

First, then, a few words respecting the country contained in the Mission. The district worked when the Mission was first opened was that in Carleton County, lying on the eastern side of the St. John River, (speaking roughly) between the village of Hartland on the south, and the Parish of Perth on the north, including all the back settlements lying to the east of the River St. John, and extending as far into the woods as the head waters of the Southwest Branch of the Miramichi and the Nashwaak Rivers, with the important settlements of North and West and Central Glassville, Esdraelon, Beaufort, and several smaller settlements.

Scattered over this vast Mission there were from forty-five to fifty families known to the first Missionary, claiming to be members of the Church of England. Of the population, in that part of the Mission lying on the bank of the River St. John, I think we shall be quite safe in saying that, fully two-thirds are the descendants of Church people, who would have remained true to the Church of their fathers had she followed them with her teaching and

ministrations, when that portion of the Province was first settled; and who will, even now, we believe from personal experience, receive gladly the teachings of the Church and return to the embrace of their Holy Mother. If an energetic, strong man could be found, who would be willing to undertake the work of organizing and to carry it on for at least ten years, this Mission would be one of the most promising in the Diocese.

The work undertaken some four years ago was full of encouragement. The services held at the various stations were always particularly well attended, especially those at Beaufort, Glassville, Hartland and Peel. At the Bible Classes and lectures held during the Winter months, at the latter of which instruction was given in the History and Doctrines of the Church, there was always a large attendance and many adults became constant, and deeply interested inquirers, three of whom were baptized, while others expressed their intention of becoming candidates for confirmation.

Had the work been carried on, we feel confident that many people in the Mission and from the Parish of Peel, particularly, would have been added to the Church.

In some portions of the Mission the people are poor and unable to contribute much, but we have no doubt that many, as they are able, will be found willing, to do their part towards the support of a Missionary if their richer brethren of the Diocese will give of their abundance to aid them. If a properly organized system of collecting were put in force in the Mission the assessment of \$200 could be raised without difficulty.

There are deposited in the Savings Bank, in the name of the Bishop of the Diocese, in trust, about \$120, for the purpose of building a school chapel at Beaufort.

(b.) BY THE REV. F. W. VROOM.

The village of Upper Peel, or East Florenceville (as it is more commonly called), which is practically the centre of the Mission, has now acquired a new importance from the bridge which is being built across the St. John River at this point. There is a prospect, too, of a new road being opened up from Esdraelon to meet the river road a little below East Florenceville, which will naturally become the business centre of the district. Considering the probability of this village soon developing into a town, *it is of great importance that the Church should occupy the ground now,*

while she has the opportunity. There is no risk to run; for if the anticipations regarding East Florenceville should prove vain, there is even now much work to be done there. The road along the river is thickly settled, and the back settlements are growing year by year.

Though the Mission has been so long vacant, the people have not forgotten their love for the Church. Whenever a clergyman is found to take charge of the Mission he will find faithful and energetic laymen to help him in his work. It is true that the Church people are few and scattered, but it is believed that, with regular services and the presence of a clergyman, the numbers would soon increase, and many be brought into the Church. The people have already shown their earnest desire to have the Mission re-opened, and they wait in hope for a clergyman to be sent to them.

II. ALBERT.

BY THE REV. CANON MEDLEY.

This mission having been deserted by the Church of England almost entirely for more than twenty years, it cannot be expected that its prospects, from a Church point of view, will be very encouraging. We will, however, put before the Church people of the Diocese the bare facts concerning the Mission of Albert, and let them judge for themselves as to its needs.

The population of the County at the time of the last census somewhat exceeded 11,000 (eleven thousand). Out of this number 456 are returned as members of the Church of England. There are three consecrated and one unfinished churches; three stations where services were regularly held during the incumbency of the last Missionary, and at least six other places which might be opened as stations.

There are twenty communicants still left.

We may well rejoice that Albert is no longer a vacant Mission. On Thursday, the 28th of February, 1884, the Rev. A. J. Cresswell, a Deacon who had just come from England, arrived at Albert, and has since been diligently working in the Mission. He was welcomed heartily by the people, and appears hopeful in his

arduous work. He found a few willing workers who had shown their zeal before his arrival by expending about \$150 in repairs on the Church at Hopewell Hill, and had also made up the assessment required by the Board of Home Missions of the D. C. S. towards his stipend. We shall look forward with much interest to his first report, which will come before the General Committee on July 1st.

No doubt the great extent of this Mission, over the entire area of which our Church population is scattered, will be a hindrance to the work for several years to come, and will test the zeal and energy of the Missionary sorely, but we are very hopeful concerning the future for Albert.

At Hillsborough, where there is no Church building, the people are very eager for the services of the Church. At Hopewell Cape and Hopewell Hill they have already displayed more enterprise than their brethren in some of our best worked parishes. At Harvey Corner a few faithful souls have pressed their claims for an open Church upon the Missionary. At Salmon River there is an opening for a strong station. At New Ireland, where twenty years ago there was a thriving congregation which more than filled the Church, there are still some few families who only need a little encouragement to make them as steadfast as ever. And then in Coverdale and Elgin parishes, although almost beyond the reach of the present Missionary, who will live probably either at Hillsborough or in the village of Albert, there is ample scope for good, honest Church work.

The County of Albert is, by road, about 55 miles from its northeast to its southwest boundary, and about 35 miles from its northwest to its southeast boundary. In its missionary character it is very similar to the County of Restigouche, which, we well remember, was once considered almost a hopeless field for Church operations. In answer to the efforts of the past fifteen years, the Mission of Restigouche is now crying out for a second Missionary, and we believe that in less time than that, if the D. C. S. can only strengthen the hands of the Missionary in Albert, who is evidently much in earnest, and desirous of doing all he can, a second Missionary will be asked for that Mission. The interest, the lively interest, of every true-hearted Churchman, no less than his willing offerings, is needed, and this long-neglected work will be done.

III. CANTERBURY.

BY THE REV. CANON NEALES.

The Parish of Canterbury has been set apart as a separate Mission of the Church for at least twenty-five years. It was at first, and for about twenty years, in charge of the Rev. Thomas Hartin, and upon his resignation it was served for two years up to July 1st, 1881, by the Rev. Frederick Towers. Since that date the Mission has been vacant. It has an area of about 400 square miles and a population of 2,600. There are two consecrated Churches, and when there was a Missionary there, services were also held at three Mission stations.

No Sunday schools have been kept up during the vacancy. There is neither parsonage nor endowment. An effort has been made of late by the Church Wardens, by canvassing the whole Mission, to find how much money can be raised towards the support of a Missionary, and it is found that at present a sum of \$260 per annum is the most that can be hoped for.

Although there is, as might be expected, no little to discourage, yet it is a matter of deep regret that the few who earnestly desire it should not receive the regular ministrations of the Church, and that the majority of the young are being lost to the Church altogether. Yet, earnest, patient labor, with judicious teaching in the distinct principles of the Church, would soon be found to give much cause for encouragement in this now neglected part of the Lord's field.

IV. JOHNSTON.

BY THE REV. J. R. DEW. COWIE.

Where is the Parish of Johnston, and where, in it, are the Church stations? These are questions often asked. Will the reader come with us on an imaginary trip to Johnston? There are two ways to get there from St. John. If you wish to go with the Missionary, who at present lives at Sussex Vale, he will drive you across the Parish of Studholm, about seventeen miles in a

northwesterly direction, over very hilly roads, to English Settlement, where the Parish Church of Johnston is. This gives the reader the position of this parish in relation to Sussex and Studholm. But in the summer season there is a much easier way to get to Johnston, which will show its position very clearly. Let the reader suppose himself to take the steamer from Indiantown for the Washademoak Lake (or properly River). A sail of about 30 miles will bring him to the mouth of this Lake, and a further sail of 15 miles up the Lake, having the Parish of Wickham on the right hand and the Parish of Cambridge on the left, will bring him to the southwesterly limit of the Parish of Johnston. This parish lies on both sides of the Lake, and stretches back upon our right hand, as we sail up the Lake, to the Parishes of Springfield and Studholm, a distance of about 8 miles, and on our left hand it stretches back to the Parishes of Waterborough and Chipman, a distance of four miles. Thus the reader will observe that Johnston is 12 miles wide. Its length up the Lake is 20 miles, where it borders on the Parish of Brunswick. Consequently the area is 240 square miles, and it is surrounded by the Parishes of Cambridge, Waterborough, Chipman, Brunswick, Studholm, Springfield and Wickham.

The position of English Settlement, the centre of Church work in this parish, has been shown in its relation to Sussex Vale. Let us look at its position from the Lake up which we are sailing.

We have already sailed up the Lake 15 miles, and have just entered the parish. Ten miles further brings us to Cody's, a settlement on our right hand, where there is a landing called Armstrong's Landing. This is one of the stations, and service is held here on the Sunday evening of the monthly visit of the Missionary. Now English Settlement is six miles straight back from this point, on the right hand bank as we sail up the Lake ; and this will help the reader to define its position.

Next in importance to English Settlement is Goshen, and its position may be realized by drawing a straight line three miles long from English settlement in a northeasterly direction or up the Lake and parallel to it.

There is one more station in this parish, and its position may be shown by again taking the steamer from Cody's and sailing up the Lake five miles to Cole's Island, the head of navigation, and walking from there three miles further, in the same direction, to the Lower Canaan Rapids, on the Canaan River, which empties into the Washademoak Lake. The reader must now have some idea of the whereabouts of Johnston, and the position of the Parish

Church and the three stations, Goshen, Cody's, and Lower Canaan Rapids.

There are 1,735 souls in this parish, and the present Missionary has in the last year found out 206 persons, or 47 families, who adhere to the Church. Sad it is to have to say, however, that only 12 of these have ever partaken of the Blessed Sacrament. Of these 47 families, 18 live in or near English Settlement; 18 in Goshen and adjoining settlements; five at Cody's, and six at the Rapids. There is only a monthly service at each of these stations at present. On Friday evenings the Missionary visits the Rapids, and has service in the School House, where the attendance is sometimes up to 50. On the following day he visits the sick, and in the evening holds a Guild meeting at English Settlement. On Sunday morning he catechises the children, and has service in the Parish Church, where the attendance has averaged 80 during the past year. After dinner he drives four miles to Goshen, and has service in the Orangemen's Hall, where from 80 to 100 people gather *in all kinds of weather*. After this service he drives six miles to Cody's, where once only the attendance was as low as 35, and it is nearly always over 80. On Monday or Tuesday the Missionary returns to Sussex, and for a whole month the Church doors in Johnston are closed. There is at present no preacher of any of the denominations living in the parish, and when there was a Baptist preacher many of the people came to Church instead of the meeting. Thus the Church, if she puts forth her strength at once, has every opportunity of growing, and of winning back many whose forefathers belonged to the Fold, but who themselves have strayed away because they were not cared for.

The Parish Church has been thoroughly repaired, and is in a good condition, although it is far from being church-like in its style of architecture. The new church at Goshen is progressing rapidly, and, if a little help is given to the earnest souls there, the Church will be ready for consecration about the 1st of August. Offerings of money, paint, nails, and especially furniture and hangings for the chancel, will be thankfully received by the Missionary.

But there is one thing above everything which causes the hearts of the Johnston people to be glad, and this is the prospect of having a resident clergyman among them very soon. The Board has promised \$500 a year, and the people have already subscribed the amount of the assessment, viz., \$200. To show that they are in earnest, thirteen men, all heads of families, have signed an agreement making themselves responsible for the amount of assessment, so long as the Board continues the grant. This agreement is now in the Missionary's keeping.

In order that the resident clergyman might have a parsonage, a portion of the money realized from the sale of the Glebe lands has lately been invested in a small property, consisting of eight acres of land, a house, and a good barn, situated in the very centre of the parish and only about a mile from the Parish Church.

It is the writer's opinion that Johnston promises to be a flourishing parish, and one which in time will repay the D. C. S. manifold. Through the hearty co-operation of the Missionary and his people, Johnston bids fair to become one of the Church's strongholds. It is an impossibility to work two parishes like Waterford and Johnston together, as has been attempted during the past year, for their nearest points are fully 20 miles apart and their extremes are 40 miles apart, and the result of it is that neither parish has been properly worked. The question for you, reader, is this, will you contribute liberally to the D. C. S. this coming year, so as to enable that Society to carry out its wishes in regard to Johnston, and many another parish similarly situated, or will you withhold your offering while many of your brother Churchmen, through no fault of their own, are left without the Church's ministrations?

"Whoso hath this world's good and seeth his brother have need and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him ?

V. MADAWASKA.

BY THE REV. L. A. HOYT.

The Mission of Madawaska, originally settled by French Acadians, received its first accession of English settlers about A. D. 1816.

Immediately after the induction of the Rev. S. D. Lee Street as Rector of Woodstock, this clergyman visited the Mission officially once a year, going as far as Baker Brook, a distance of 124 miles. To realize this, you will have to suppose the Rector of St. John, in addition to duty, say at St. George, doing all the Church work as far as Woodstock. In A. D. 1845, or thereabouts, a district of one hundred and ten miles long, lying north of Wakefield, was cut off from the Woodstock Mission and placed in

charge of one of the two travelling Missionaries of the Diocese—the Rev. J. S. Thompson. The headquarters of this district were at Andover. As the country around this centre became settled, and required increasing attention from the Missionary, the services at Madawaska were necessarily, to some extent, withdrawn ; and for many years this Mission was obliged to be contented with week-day services—quarterly—and with the ministrations of a clergyman resident sixty miles distant. This is as though the people of St. John were dependent for all spiritual ministrations on the services of a clergyman residing at Fredericton. In 1870, when the Missions of the Diocese were being arranged for schedule purposes, the Parish of Madawaska, together with the fifteen other parishes of this travelling Missionary's district, was included in the Mission of Andover. The system then adopted required that more attention should be paid at some point where the guaranteee might be, at least, attempted ; and this rendered anything like the former attention to distant posts an impossibility. Hence the spiritual famine became still more intense. Through all their difficulties, the Church people of this Mission, though surrounded by a hostile religious body, remained *loyal to the Church*, promptly sending for their clergyman in case of need, and according him a warm welcome whenever he made them a visit. So desirous are they for a clergyman in their midst, that the few and feeble folk who after so many years of destitution are left, now offer a sum towards his support which averages \$25 a year from every contributor. The future prospects of this Mission are unusually encouraging. It is on the Great Road to Quebec. It is also at the point where the railroad, when completed, will leave the St. John River, consequently it will be the distributing centre for the great lumber country of the Upper St. John. It is situated at a distance from any considerable town ; hence it must be the *entrepot* for the large farming country by which it is surrounded. The Protestants of the Parish of Madawaska are, almost to a man, Church people. We are under grave responsibility to maintain the Church in this Mission.

VI. WELDFORD.

BY THE REV. D. FORSYTH.

The Mission of Weldford has an area of about 232 square miles, and a population of about 3,000. It contains some very excellent farming lands, affords extensive facilities for lumbering operations, and there has recently been started, at the thriving village of Mortimore on the I. C. R., near Weldford Station, a manufactory for the production of a valuable extract of hemlock bark.

The religion of the population is largely Presbyterian, although probably about 600 persons have been baptized into the Church of England. There are about twenty-five families who may be regarded as reliable and zealous supporters of the Church, and no doubt there would soon be more if the Mission were provided with a faithful, prudent and zealous clergyman, whose settled abode would be among the people committed to his charge.

The Parish Church, which has just been completed, is free of debt. The sum of \$400 is now in the Savings Bank, to be devoted to the erection of a parsonage as soon as the people have raised a like sum for that purpose.

The number of communicants in the Mission is twenty-one, but no doubt a larger number could be soon reported if a resident clergyman were at work among the people.

There is one Sunday School, at which there has been an average attendance of about fifteen scholars in summer. This school, no doubt, would become more efficient under constant pastoral supervision.

There are four Mission Stations in the Parish, of which Weldford Station, including the village of Mortimore on the I. C. R., is an important one. There is no doubt that a good work for the Church can be done if services are regularly established in the latter village.

There are about 332 acres of Church land in the Mission, besides the Church reserve, on which the new Church is built. The income from these lands, however, is small. For the present the maintenance of the Missionary will probably depend for the most part on the contributions of about twenty-five families. No doubt

this number would, in a short time, be largely increased if the services of the Church were regularly provided for the Parish.

From the foregoing it will appear what an important field the Mission of Weldford presents, and it is to be hoped that the ways and means may be provided without delay by which some faithful and zealous clergyman may "go forth to his work and to his labour" among the people of this Parish. They will hail his advent with a kind and hospitable welcome.

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